

**TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OF THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES  
OF THE FLATHEAD INDIAN NATION, MONTANA**

Volume 23 Number 43  
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: April 20, 2023  
Approved: April 25, 2023

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tom McDonald, Chairman; Len TwoTeeth, Vice-Chairman; Martin Charlo, Secretary; Ellie Bundy, Treasurer; Jennifer Finley; Carole Lankford; Jim Malatare; James “Bing” Matt; and Terry Pitts.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mike Dolson (Participating in Negotiated Rule Making for the Progress Act – Washington, DC).

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jableau Arlee, Council Support; Jennifer Trahan, Council Office Manager; James Steele, Sr., Sergeant at Arms; and Abby Dupuis, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:01 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Martin Charlo.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for April 18, 2023 were presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Len TwoTeeth to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for April 18, 2023, with corrections. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Len TwoTeeth to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Jennifer Finley. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Chairman McDonald** reminded council of upcoming events. The Northwest Native CDFI Summit will be in Missoula on April 25 and CSKT will sponsor their evening reception. Carole Lankford will attend the reception and offer the welcoming remarks. The National Congress of American Indians Midyear Convention is May 7-11 in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. The Tribal Energy Equity Summit is May 22-25 in St. Paul, Minnesota. There are stipends for two tribal leaders to go. Carole Lankford will be attending. Tom, Mike, Jennifer, Martin, and the Tribal attorneys will be participating in the Arthur Blank Treaty

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Workshop May 30 – June 2, so there will be no council meetings that week. Their travel expenses will be covered.

**Jennifer Finley** will be going to the Governor's Tourism Conference in Helena next Monday and Tuesday. The State will be covering the costs since she is on the State-Tribal Economic Development Commission. Jennifer will be attending the Elders Conference May 10-11 in Fort Hall, Idaho. Jennifer will be in Havre for the State-Tribal Economic Development Commission meeting on May 17.

**Jim Malatare** went on the Medicine Tree trip with Nkwusm yesterday. It is amazing what the staff do with those children and how respectful they are and how much they have learned. They also went to the next tree and did their prayers. **Terry Pitts** also went on the Medicine Tree trip.

**Martin Charlo** informed council that the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority received a grant and will be having an open house at the Ronan Boys and Girls Club on May 24, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lunch will be served. They want to restore the northwest trail from Billings to Sand Point, which will go through Ravalli. Martin will be going to Washington, DC next week.

**Jim Malatare** requested an update on the houses that are being rehabbed. There are houses that are vacant and many people are homeless. He wants to eliminate the housing issue. There are a couple of vendors that do roofing and housing construction that have not been contacted, but then we hear there is a shortage of vendors. We have people that want to work and Jim wants to put them to work. **Chairman McDonald** suggested Jimmy give the list of vendors to Housing.

**Chairman McDonald** discussed the need to let the public know that the Tribes are no longer screening for marijuana on the prehire drug tests unless it is a safety sensitive position. Tom will ask Rick to work with Mike Wheeler to get the message in the Char-Koosta News.

**Carole Lankford** received a message from a tribal member that needs a job. He has no high school education and she thought the council took that out of our policy. **Chairman McDonald** thought some jobs have diploma or GED requirements in their position descriptions. Carole asked if the person should meet with the council to make a request for a waiver of the policy. Tom thought a diploma was not a mandate and it is up to the department to establish the qualifications.

**Council** met in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**Germaine White**, University of Montana, introduced a cohort of Young South East Asia Leadership Initiative Professional Fellows to the council. The YSEALI Professional Fellows is a U.S. Department of State program hosted by the University of Montana Mansfield Center. **Council** welcomed the fellows and took a photo with them.

**Jace Smith**, Natural Resources Department, requested approval of amendment 3 to Contract No. 21-197 to increase the amount by \$1,068,036 for the Jocko Irrigation Canal Lateral to Pipe Project, for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$3,206,273, for expanding the scope of work to include all six phases of the construction for right-of-way, easements, bidding, onsite supervision, and construction administration across the entire three years of execution. The department will lease property from Kevin Thomas to store materials for the duration of the project.

**MOTION** by Martin Charlo to approve amendment 3 to Contract No. 21-197 to increase the amount by \$1,068,036 for the Jocko Irrigation Canal Lateral to Pipe Project, for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$3,206,273, for expanding the scope of work to include all six phases of the construction for right-of-way, easements, bidding, onsite supervision, and construction administration across the entire three years of execution. Seconded by Jim Malatare. Carried, unanimous (8 present – Len TwoTeeth out of the room).

**Chairman McDonald** reminded Jace that the council wants to exhaust all possibilities for raw materials, even if we have to buy land to do that. **Jace Smith** advised the staff is looking at that.

**Miranda Burland**, Tribal Education Department; and **Zoe Higheagle Strong**, Washington State University; discussed the renewal of a memorandum of understanding for the purpose of strengthening the educational services that are provided to Native American students who attend WSU. CSKT tribal member students receive in-state tuition while attending Washington State University. The council was invited to the official signing ceremony on the 28th.

\*\*\*\*\* **Break** \*\*\*\*\*

Council **recessed** the regular meeting at 10:50 a.m. to conduct an S&K Gaming LLC shareholder meeting.

Council **reconvened** into the regular meeting at 12:00 p.m.

**Dan Decker**, **Melissa Schlichting** and **Chelsea Colwyn**, Legal Department, requested approval of an Op-Ed regarding the Canadian mining industry. It was the **consensus** of council to approve the Op-Ed.

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Council **adjourned** at 12:06 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES**

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Martin A. Charlo  
Tribal Council Secretary